



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

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Seventieth Session

Virtual session, 25 August 2020

**SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC HYGIENE OF TOGO AT
THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

Honourable Minister of Health of the Republic of Congo,
Your Excellency, Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union,
Regional Director of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa,
Director-General of the World Health Organization,
Distinguished Guests,

It is a real pleasure for me to address this Seventieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa and to extend a warm welcome to you. On behalf of the Government of Togo, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to WHO for its multifaceted support to our country.

Mankind as a whole has been struck by this terrible pandemic with devastating effects on economies and societies. At the same time, the surge of national collaboration and international solidarity triggered by COVID-19 rightly reminds us of our common destiny.

We pay tribute to the memory of all those who have lost their lives in the COVID-19 pandemic and wish all affected persons a speedy recovery.

Dear Regional Director,

The Government of Togo congratulates and commends WHO for its leadership role in organizing the response to COVID-19, particularly through its technical and financial support, but above all the guidelines it is issuing as knowledge on the disease improves. In the same vein, I would like to commend the other international organizations, the African Union, regional organizations, friendly countries and philanthropists for their multifaceted support to the control of this pandemic.

As soon as the earliest warnings were issued on the pandemic nature of this disease and the threat it poses to all countries, a crisis management committee chaired by the Head of State was set up in my country. Appropriate measures have been taken to protect the population and contain the spread of the virus. These measures sought to strike the right balance between protecting the health of the population, protecting the national economy, protecting social rights and observance of human rights in their various aspects.

After eight months of this major crisis, we realize that it will be around for a while, and that all the players must join forces to strengthen the resilience of our health care systems and ensure the continuity of services.

Madam Regional Director,

Togo, in keeping with its commitment, reiterates its availability to host, as announced last year, the next face-to-face session of the Regional Committee.

Thank you for your kind attention.